

Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Water Regulations

The following regulations govern fishing in the inland waters that form a common boundary between the states of Michigan and Wisconsin. These rules and regulations supersede all others governing fishing on Michigan/ Wisconsin boundary waters that in any way conflict. Where regulations of Michigan and Wisconsin differ, persons shall comply with the regulations of the state in whose territorial waters they are fishing.

The interstate boundary waters in which fishing is to be governed by the special regulations are: **The Lake Michigan waters between the breakwalls at the mouth of the Menominee River beginning at an imaginary line drawn between the most lakeward point of each breakwall. Menominee River, its sloughs and impoundments** (Menominee, Dickinson, Iron Counties, Michigan; Florence, Marinette Counties, Wisconsin); **Brule River** (Iron County, Michigan; Florence and Forest Counties, Wisconsin); **Brule Island Impoundment**, upstream to a line running east-west through the first island upstream from the junction of the **Brule and Paint Rivers** (Iron County, Michigan; Florence County, Wisconsin); **Smoky Lake** (Iron County, Michigan; Vilas County, Wisconsin); **Norwood Lake, Lac Vieux Desert, Crystal Lake, Mill Lake, Big Bateau Lake, Mamie Lake, West Bay Lake, Big Lake, Crampton Lake, Plum Lake, Tenderfoot Lake, Roach Lake, Little Presque Isle Lake, Cyrus Lake, Basin Lake, Stateline Lake** (Gogebic County, Michigan; Vilas County, Wisconsin); **East Fork Montreal River up to the mouth of Layman Creek** (Gogebic County, Michigan; Iron County, Wisconsin); **Montreal River**, (Gogebic County, Michigan; Iron County, Wisconsin).

Legal fishing methods

- Up to three lines per person with a total of three (3) hooks or baits may be used.
- Lines must be attended at all times.
- Dip nets not exceeding nine (9) feet square or in diameter, without walls may be used in the Menominee River from April 1 to May 14 for taking of suckers, redhorse, carp, smelt, and burbot (**except** from Hattie Street Bridge in Marinette-Menominee to the first dam upstream and within 200 feet of all other dams).
- Fish shanties used in ice fishing must be legibly marked with the name and address of owner. In Wisconsin boundary waters, fish shanty doors cannot be locked from inside during occupancy.
- You may fish from a motorboat with the motor running or a sailboat under sail except in Wisconsin boundary waters of Vilas County.
- All residents of Michigan and Wisconsin holding a sport fishing license from their respective state or residents of other states who possess a sport fishing license issued by Michigan or Wisconsin may fish in the boundary waters.
- Crayfish may not be possessed or used for bait on Michigan-Wisconsin boundary waters.

Table 5 Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters Regulations (Hook & Line)

Species (Note 1)	Water	Season	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit
Trout , Salmon	Smoky L., Montreal R., and Menominee R. mouths to 1st dam.	Open all year	10"	5
	Menominee R. and Montreal R. above 1st dam. Brule R. mouth to U.S. 2	Last Sat. in April - Sept. 30	7"	
	Brule R. above U.S. 2 bridge		Brook Trout 8" Brown Trout 12"	
Smallmouth bass Largemouth bass	All boundary waters	1st Sat. in May - Fri. before 3rd Sat. in June	catch and release	
		3rd Sat. in June - Nov. 30	14"	5 in combination
Walleye, Sauger	All boundary waters except rivers and impoundments	May 1 - March 1	15"	5 in combination
	All rivers and impoundments	March 2 - April 30		1
		May 1 - March 1		5 in combination
Northern pike	All boundary waters	May 1 - March 1	none	5
Bluegills, Crappies, Sunfish, Yellow perch	All boundary waters	Open all year	none	25 in combination
Muskellunge	All boundary waters	May 15 - Nov. 30	40"	1
Lake Sturgeon* (See Table 3)	All boundary waters	Sept. 4 - Nov. 1	70"	1 per season
Channel catfish	All boundary waters	Open all year	none	10
All others	All boundary waters	Open all year	none	none

Note 1: No fishing during the closed season on trout in the **Brule R.** upstream from U.S. Hwy 2 bridge (T41N, R32W, Sec. 9) Iron Co., MI and the **Montreal R.** above Superior Falls flowage. *A locking harvest tag must be obtained prior to fishing. Successful anglers must tag the fish and register it immediately (within 24 hrs.) at a designated registration station, contact DNR for locations and to obtain a tag.